

Our Reference: UMJR-1476

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Peter X. Ma
Serial Number: 09/255,963
Filing Date: February 23, 1999
Examiner/Art Group Unit: Carrie Stroup/1600
Title: THREE-DIMENSIONAL
HYDROGEL/CELL SYSTEM

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please enter the following preliminary amendment before initial examination of the above-identified application.

In the Claims:

- SUB
A/B
- 1 1. (Amended) A method comprising the steps
2 of:
3 (a) providing:
4 i) an alginate salt,
5 ii) a source of calcium ions, and
6 iii) a calcium releasing compound;
7 b) mixing [said] an alginate salt and [said]
8 a source of calcium ions to provide a mixture; and
9 [c)] adding [said] a calcium releasing compound
10 to [said] the mixture to provide a three-dimensional
11 crosslinked hydrogel system.
- 1 2. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, further
2 comprising the step of [d)] culturing [said] the three-
3 dimensional crosslinked hydrogel system for growing cells
4 in vitro.
- 1 3. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein
2 [said] the alginate salt is selected from the group
3 consisting of sodium alginate and potassium alginate.